

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:EMARKS:GJB  
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELEY  
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN  
EUR:GJLOWENSTEIN  
S/S-RGAMBLE  
RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070938 TOSEC 030138

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEL; FOR S/S WITH SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY'S BONN,  
LONDON, AND PARIS BRIEFING PAPERS

ZAIRE

BACKGROUND: THE BRITISH AND GERMANS HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVE  
IN ZAIRE, EXCEPT STRICTLY COMMERCIALY. MOBUTU HAS NOT  
FOCUSED ON THEM FOR HELP IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND  
THEY HAVE NOT SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING. THE  
FRENCH RESPONDED QUICKLY TO MOBUTU'S INITIAL REQUEST  
(WITH 25 TONS OF ARMS AND MUNITIONS) BUT NOW APPEAR TO BE  
HOLDING BACK, PENDING A BETTER FEEL FOR US AND BELGIAN  
POLICY ON THE ONE HAND, AND DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE ON  
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THE OTHER (MOBUTU HAS ASKED THE FRENCH TO ASSIST IN  
RECRUITING MERCENARIES, AMONG OTHER THINGS.)

THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE APPEARS TO BE DETERIORATING  
MILITARILY (AS THE KATANGANS ADVANCE AGAINST AN  
INCREASINGLY DEMORALIZED ZAIRIAN ARMY) AND POLITICALLY  
(GROWING LACK OF SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU). THE NIGERIAN

DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE CONTINUES WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMISSIONER GARBA ARRIVING IN KINSHASA ON MARCH 30.

TALKING POINTS FOR ALL STOPS

-- WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS  
OF THIS INVASION; OUR CONCERN IS SHARED BY A GROWING  
NUMBER OF MODERATE AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS.

-- WE HAVE PROVIDED A LIMITED AMOUNT OF MATERIEL TO  
THE ZAIRIANS (NOT ARMS OR MUNITIONS, HOWEVER). WE ARE  
CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BUT THE LACK OF  
INFORMATION, OUR OWN DESIRE TO BE FORTHCOMING BUT  
RESPONSIBLE, CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN, AND OUR SUPPORT FOR  
THE NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT ALL LEAD US TO MAINTAIN  
A CAUTIOUS POSITION AT THIS TIME.

-- RECENT REPORTS OF ZAIRIAN MILITARY PERFORMANCE  
ARE NOT ENCOURAGING. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE  
OBJECTIVES OF THE KATANGANS, WHICH THEY HAVE NOT  
YET ARTICULATED, AND THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT THEY WILL  
THEN RECEIVE.

-- MUCH WILL ALSO DEPEND ON THE STAYING POWERS OF  
THE MOBUTU REGIME.

TALKING POINTS FOR THE FRENCH ONLY

-- I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU SENT TWO SPECIAL  
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REPRESENTATIVES TO ZAIRE RECENTLY, HAVE THEIR  
REPORTS SHED ANY PARTICULAR LIGHT ON DEVELOPMENTS?

-- HOW DO YOU NOW STAND WITH RESPECT TO MOBUTU'S  
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS TO YOU FOR ASSISTANCE (ARMS,  
HELICOPTERS)?

-- WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS  
OF THE NIGERIAN EFFORT?

-- WE ARE CONSIDERING OTHER DIPLOMATIC MOVES IF THE  
NIGERIAN EFFORT SHOULD FAIL, SPECIFICALLY IN THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE  
PROSPECTS THERE MIGHT BE?  
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY'S BONN, LONDON, AND PARIS BRIEFING PAPERS ZAIRE  
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**To:** SECRETARY  
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